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SUBJECT: COTE D'IVOIRE WILL SUPPORT NEW RED DIAMOND EMBLEM
AT JUNE 20 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

REF: SECSTATE 95184

On June 16, we met with Ambassador Bernard Tanoh Boutchoue, Director of the Office of the United Nations and International Organizations at the Ivoirian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During our discussion, we raised the points provided in reftel and again thanked the Ivoirian government for its vote to support the amendment of the Third Additional Protocol in December 2005. Boutchoue told us that the Ivoirian government was fully in favor of adoption of a neutral emblem for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. For Cote d'Ivoire, this is not a political question, it is a question of how to support the valuable humanitarian work done by the Movement. Boutchoue promised to contact the Ivoirian Head of Mission in Geneva to reinforce Cote d'Ivoire's support for the new emblem and highlight the U.S. government's interest in this matter.
Hooks